

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: NOVEMBER 1, 2021

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, November 1 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Paul Wyman, Vice-President Robert B. Bray, Member Jack Dodd, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease.

The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Todd Prifogle and conducted by President Paul Wyman. Commissioner Brad Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Wyman offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the regular meeting held on October 18, 2021, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

HOWARD COUNTY ASSESSOR:

Signature of Reassessment Contract Agreement:

County Assessor Mindy Heady presented the contract agreement with Ad Valorem Solutions. The contract agreement with Ad Valorem Solutions was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HOWARD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Opening of 2022 Sealed Annual Bids:

County Highway Engineer Amber Tolle and Commissioner Wyman opened the sealed bids, and the bids will be taken under advertisement as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS:

SOLAR ORDINANCE NO. 2021-BCCO-28:

Updates to Solar Ordinance No. 2021- BCCO-28:

Commissioner President Paul Wyman stated the Solar Ordinance No.2021-BCCO-28 has been updated for the final time. The first update is that the setback is now 300 feet from any permanent structure of at least 250 square feet on the property, and second update is that this ordinance is for off-site solar only.

Public Comment:

Resident Brad Semon of 10954 E. 100 S., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Semon asked if he could get a copy of the public comments that took place during the 10-day public comment period that was set pertaining to the Solar Ordinance. Commissioner Wyman said that these comments would be provided.

Resident Joe Northcutt of 1187 N. 1100 E., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Northcutt stated that he appreciates that the setbacks have been adjusted again, but he stated that he feels like the set back is not far enough yet. Mr. Northcutt also stated that he is concerned on the wells only being tested before and after the completion of the project. Commissioner Wyman stated that with the update to the ordinance there is now a 30-day test to be completed after completion of the project. At that point, if the home owner has any concerns, they should test their wells.

Resident Stan Oyler of 1877 N. 1100 E., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Oyler stated he feels like the question about the wells is being avoided. Mr. Oyler is requesting the wells be tested every two or three years after the base line has been established. Commissioner Dodd stated that there has been a base line established, which is 30 days after completion of the project.

Resident Merrill Swisher of 11877 E. 100 S., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Swisher stated that he read in the paper where it talks about safety data sheets. He said that the paper also stated that citizens will get a copy of the safety data sheets within the first 60 days after insulation of the solar panels. He also asks if it would be better if the safety data sheets would be made available before the project. He also felt that this would be a good idea so that people with knowledge of this project could look at the sheets before not after the project is completed.

Resident Steve Eberly of 2741 E. Aches Road, Pine Village IN, 47975: Mr. Eberly owns and operates Hoosiers for Renewables. Mr. Eberly stated that he applauds the Commissioners for putting together an ordinance for this project. This ordinance will help for years to come as to what fencing and vegetation will look like. Mr. Eberly stated that when he organized his group that there were only six counties that had renewables, and that now, there are over forty counties that have renewables.

Commissioner Jack Dodd stated that he has heard the concerns. He stated that the public comments were very beneficial and the Commissioners took many of those comments and worked them into the ordinance. Commissioner Dodd talked about the well testing and about when they would be tested. There has been a base line established now and that is what will be used.

Commissioner Paul Wyman thanked everyone that sent in their public comments for the Solar Ordinance, and stated that the comments have made this process much easier.

Voting on Solar Ordinance No. 2021-BCCO-28:

Commissioner Wyman called for a vote. Commissioner Dodd voted yea, Commissioner Bray voted nay, and Commissioner Wyman voted yea. Commissioner Dodd made a motion for the approval of Ordinance No. 2021-BCCO-28. Commissioner Wyman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on October 22, 2021, in the amount of \$832,511.10 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expense:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on October 22, 2021, in the amount of \$832,191.10 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims for payment on November 1, 2021, in the amount of \$1,144,330.17 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
4. **Monthly Reports:** Reports were submitted for review and accepted by the Board:
 - a. County Treasurer's Monthly Report for September 2021

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS ISSUES:

Commissioner Wyman submitted the 2022 Howard County Commissioners Scheduled Meeting Dates. The 2022 Howard County Commissioners Scheduled Meeting Dates were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Joe Northcutt of 1187 N. 1100 E., Greentown, IN 46936: Mr. Northcutt asked which government officials and/or departments were involved in creating the Solar Ordinance. Commissioner Wyman stated that there are several departments including the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the Howard County Commissioners.

Resident Paula Davis of 2722 S. 344 E., Kokomo, Indiana 46902: Mrs. Davis is the Chapter Chair for Moms for Liberty of Howard County. Mrs. Davis stated that Moms for Liberty is continuing to grow. She asked the Commissioners to keep the mask mandates at the local School Boards.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

Howard County Commissioners' Meeting: November 1, 2021